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Comments on S.B. 231: AN ACT CONCERNING POLLINATOR HEALTH

Although all beekeepers support pollinator health, this bill is both naive and unenforceable. First of all, despite and the media hype, there's no science supporting that neonicotinoids are a major problem, or that controlling application will mitigate any health issues with honey bees. The chemistry is so complicated that only a handful of scientists understand how they work, but that aside, plain old observation doesn't support the sensational cries of the causation enthusiasts.

Bees on commercial crops are at an all time high, and although they would be safer in a pristine environment, environmental toxins only minimally affect their current health concerns. It's frustrating to read that this bill focuses on the national media hype around a controversial area of science, rather than issues that are actually of concern, like habitat loss. To then build an administrative task- force, using resources and time, exemplifies the worst type of governmental waste - uninformed legislation.

I support Section 8 with one exception- change the spelling of varroa.

I also support Section 12, but that information is so commonly known, that this effort hardly seems necessary. Again, if forage is a concern, we need to stop destroying habitats and reintroduce practices like old fashion hedgerows in agricultural practices- try legislating that.

Section 10 is the most troubling; it makes the rest of the bill seem like green-wash.

Although this bill is presented as motherhood and apple pie, on balance, it's mostly a solution seeking a problem. If we really want to protect pollinator health, we should save the position of our State Bee Inspector instead mindlessly eliminating the one person actually protecting them.